

tremendous work to continue Kathleen Seefeldt's legacy. These awardees have tirelessly dedicated themselves to the promotion and expansion of the artistic elements that make Prince William County so special.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2022 Prince William County Arts Council's Seefeldt Award Recipients:

Lynn Godino, Outstanding Volunteer in the Arts

Lukman Ahmad, Outstanding Patron of the Arts

James Villani, Outstanding Individual Artist
Manassas Ballet Theatre, Outstanding Arts Organization

Prince William Living, Outstanding Business Supporter of the Arts

Dr. Laura Cherry, Outstanding Arts Educator

This celebration is also of particular significance in that it also serves as the 30th anniversary of the Prince Williams County Arts Council's founding. For three decades now, the Arts Council has celebrated the artistic accomplishments of our community. Their work has kept Prince William County a wonderful place to live and work, and has attracted artistic talent from all over, helping expand our diverse community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 2022 Prince William County Arts Council's Seefeldt Awardees. These talented, expressive, and dedicated individuals have committed themselves to the preservation of an admirable legacy and have made their community more beautiful at every turn along the way.

RECOGNIZING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS MONUMENT IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the Western New York Community in commending the honorable service of African American veterans throughout the history of the United States military.

The recently unveiled African American Veterans Monument in Buffalo, New York, highlights the contributions made by African American service members to our country. These contributions cannot be understated.

I commend all who supported the development and construction of this project, including the Erie County Chapter of the Links for taking the steps necessary to honor these veterans. This unique monument now stands as a symbol and reminder on the Buffalo waterfront to all Western New Yorkers of the sacrifices that these brave individuals made to preserve our freedoms.

From the Revolutionary War onwards, 2.1 million African Americans served this country with unconditional valor. Over 90 African Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's preeminent military commendation. Out of admiration for these esteemed veterans, many of Western New York's community leaders banded together to demonstrate our thanks for their sacrifices—a gesture that many of us believe is long overdue.

The symbolism undergirding this monument uniquely pairs with the traits displayed by the generations of African American men and women who have served our country. Located at the Erie County Naval & Military Park, the monument consists of 12 pillars representing the 12 military conflicts in which these veterans demonstrated their strength, courage, and patriotism. The top of each pillar is illuminated by a beacon of light, referencing the practice that active-duty military families used to guide their loved ones home. These illuminations will glow eternally, along with our nation's everlasting appreciation to its African American servicemembers.

We must continue to recognize and commemorate those who sacrificed on behalf of our nation and fought on our country's many historic battlefields. Our selfless and courageous African American veterans of Western New York and the greater United States will forever be remembered within our local community. It is my honor to represent these veterans, along with the members of our community who crafted this historic monument.

HONORING JAMES HOLMES

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime of achievement of Mr. James Holmes.

Following decades of service to the Culpeper community and 35 years of service to the Culpeper County Electoral Board, Mr. Holmes is stepping down as current Chair of the Board at the end of this year.

Growing up in Culpeper, James Holmes attended George Washington Carver School and was among the first integrated classes at Culpeper High School.

Mr. Holmes' determination to improve our Commonwealth for future generations of Virginians brought him back to Culpeper after he graduated Cum Laude from Virginia Union University and earned his JD from Howard Law School.

A licensed ordained Baptist minister who has pastored in Culpeper for decades, Mr. Holmes has held many positions with the Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association.

From his service on the Electoral Board to casting an Electoral Vote in 2008 for our first Black president, James Holmes has demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and elevating the voices of Virginians within his community.

Mr. Holmes has touched many lives throughout his career—as President of Culpeper Housing and Shelter Services, President of Culpeper County United Way, President of the Culpeper County Equalization Board, and as a caring member of his community.

Today, I thank James Holmes for his commitment to progress, equality, and community empowerment.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF LT. COL. DAN WAGNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of Lieutenant Colonel Dan Wagner upon his retirement from the United States Army after 20 years of selfless service to our Nation. Lt. Col Dan Wagner has made immeasurable contributions in service to our great Nation.

Lt. Col Wagner was spurred to action by the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and joined the Army shortly thereafter. He has since had an exemplary military career. Over the course of his service, his assignments included three years of tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, and other areas with both conventional and special operations units.

Prior to his retirement this summer, he served as a legislative liaison for U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in Washington, D.C. Lt. Col Wagner focused on developing and executing legislative strategies to secure support for a \$12 billion budget, including appropriations and authorizations for Joint Special Operations, Special Mission Units, and Intelligence.

On behalf of special operators for operational and programmatic issues of Congressional interest, Lt. Col Wagner coordinated with several offices in the Department of Defense, including the Offices of the Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense Special Access Programs Coordination Office, and Geographic Combat Commanders.

Using his extensive experience with the inner workings of the Pentagon, Geographic Combatant Commands, and the National Security Council, Lt. Col Wagner served as a senior representative for USSOCOM to the Central Intelligence Agency on national security and counterterrorism issues. He worked to revamp policies both global and internal, as well as to coordinate de-confliction and synchronization efforts.

Lt. Col Wagner served on the Army Staff in Legislative Affairs where he maintained the intelligence portfolio for the Secretary of the Army. He also served in the personal office of Rep. Mike Rogers, Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Prior to joining the Army, Lt. Col Wagner was a small business owner in Southeastern Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from DePaul University and a Masters in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University. Additionally, Lt. Col Wagner completed the Manage Mentor Program for Business, Management and Marketing at Harvard University.

Lt. Col Wagner is a passionate and selfless leader who has devoted his career to ensuring military operators receive the intelligence and support they need to keep our Nation safe. Madam Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues please join me in thanking Lt. Col Wagner and his family for their service as they enter the next chapter of their lives.